



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
Department of Food and Agriculture
251 Causeway Street, Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114
617-626-1700 fax 617-626-1850 www.Mass.gov/DFA



MITT ROMNEY
Governor

ELLEN ROY HERZFELDER
Secretary

KERRY HEALEY
Lieutenant Governor

DOUGLAS GILLESPIE
Commissioner

Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture Order of Poultry Importation Ban

Whereas, a serious avian disease known as Exotic Newcastle Disease was first diagnosed in backyard poultry in Los Angeles County, California in September of 2002, and

Whereas, the disease was subsequently confirmed in birds in 3 commercial egg-laying facilities in California since mid-December, 2002, and

Whereas, control efforts have not yet been successful in eliminating the disease in California birds, and

Whereas, both state and federal quarantines were placed on all of Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego Counties and portions of Riverside and San Bernadino Counties, and

Whereas, the Governor of California on January 8, 2003 extended the quarantine zone for Newcastle Disease to include all of southern California, and

Whereas, the virus which causes the disease is highly contagious, and is readily spread by contact with infected birds or materials contaminated with the causative virus, and

Whereas, all types of birds including domestic, wild and caged or pet birds are susceptible, and

Whereas domestic poultry and hatching eggs enter the Commonwealth on a regular basis in the ordinary course of business, and

Whereas, the occurrence of such disease in the Commonwealth could create havoc in the marketplace,

Now, therefore, under the General Laws of Massachusetts Chapter 129. Livestock Disease Control. Section 2, which permits the Director to make reasonable orders for the prevention, suppression and extirpation of contagious diseases of domestic animals, until further notice the following import restrictions are placed in effect for Massachusetts effective immediately:

No person shall import poultry, including game birds, or hatching eggs from California or that have transited through California, and

No person shall import birds customarily used for household pets from California or that have transited through California.

January 14, 2003
Dr. David M. Sherman
Chief, Bureau of Animal Health